Depots and also for Armament Stores and Air Stores has been initiated. A similar system for armament stores and air stores will be fully functional by end 2001. An Integrated Material Management Online System (IMMOS) project for Inventory Management is being introduced in the Indian Air Force.

Talks with Russia on defence related issues

1245. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered Indian delegation held talks with Russian authorities at Moscow in defence related issues, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(c) the extent to which agreements made with Russian Government in defence related items, arc going to strengthen our defence requirements;

(d) whether the country would also have access to Russian Aero Space Technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) A Defence Ministry Delegation led by the Raksha Mantri visited Moscow during June 2001 for the first meeting of the India—Russia Intcr-Governmcntal Commission on Military Technical Cooperation. The discussion covered the entire gamut of Military Technical Cooperation issues as well as measures to strengthen the bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the increased level of defence cooperation between the two countries and the resolution of outstanding issues in this area. The discussions also covered international, regional and bilateral strategic issues of interest to both countries.

Disclosure of further details concerning sensitive aspects of our bilateral relationship with friendly countries, would impinge on national security. If would thus, not be in the interest of national security to disclose further details.

Take over of cantonment areas' civic administration by the Army

1246. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for doing away with the Indian Defence Estate Service (IDES) is under active consideration with a view to pave the way for complete take over of cantonment areas' civic administration by the Army;

(b) whether it is a fact that a final decision into this matter is being deferred because of the differences in the perception of on IDES role in the cantonment affairs;

(c) whether Government have analysed the socio-economic benefits, if any, accruing from this change; and

(d) if so, how Army would be in a better position for urban governance and land management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) No proposal to pave the way for complete take over of cantonment areas' civic administration by the Army is under consideration of the Government. However, an exercise has been undertaken for streamlining the administration of cantonments, better management of Defence Estates and bringing about greater efficiency and cost effectiveness in running the various organisations including the Indian Defence Estates Service/Military Engineering Service under Ministry of Defence.

(c) and (d) A committee has been constituted to go into the various issues involved.